WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Founded December 17, 1857 FEBRUARY 1992

WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

LOOKING AHEAD TO FUND RAISING GALA, OPENING OFFICE AT MUSEUM; NEED DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTEERS

Have you driven by the Museum lately? By the time you read this column, the blue canvas protective covering of the roof should have been removed and been replaced by a wonderful, freshly installed cedar shingle roof. Now we can concentrate on working toward making the building habitable, and that means that we will be recruiting volunteers for many projects about the Museum.

Before we can receive a Certificate of Occupancy, the following must be finished/installed:

- a handicap accessible restroom;
- permanent heating (and climate control);
- a security system;
- the rear door widened to permit wheelchair access.

The first thing that will be opened for use will be the staff office. The large front upstairs room will house the office and will be a place to carry on the daily activities of our Society. We would like members (and friends) to think about what phases of our Society and its Museum you would like to be involved in. These are the areas in which you can help:

- **IMMEDIATE NEED: a Director of Volunteers who will coordinate:**
- preparation and painting of the exterior this summer;
- the garden and grounds: planting, maintenance, general care;
- help with monthly mailings and special mailings;
- assessment and care of historic artifacts;
- assistance maintaining a membership/donor database;
- staffing for the Gift Shop-when it opens;

(Continued on page 7.)

KAREN'S KOLUMN

DEAN FUND TO FURNISH STREET TREES, CARPENTERS BRACE SAGGING BACK ROOF, READY IT FOR SHINGLES

I am delighted to report that we have been successful in our application to the Dean Fund for six street trees for the lawn extension at the MUSEUM ON MAIN STREET.

Our grateful thanks go to Paul Bairley of the Parks and Recreation Department, Forestry Division, and to the members of the Dean Fund Committee.

We especially thank Peter Pollack of Pollack Design Associates for help in submitting the project proposal. The trees will be a finishing touch for our corner at the north end of downtown.

At the beginning of the Museum Project, we knew that there was a problem with the rear roof over the 1-1/2 story portion of the house. It had a sag in it, and there was evidence of leaking.

Initially, in planning the scope of work, we thought that our best course would be to patch temporarily the bad roof, wait until we were financially a bit better off, and then do a complete re-roofing with appropriate-to-the-period cedar shingles.

As work progressed however, we began to realize that a roof is something that ought not to be put off. We

submitted a proposal to the Ann Arbor Area Foundation, but were not successful in obtaining funding.

We knew it would be a big bill for us, but we decided to go ahead and do it now, trusting that we will be able to pick up extra funds, should we need them, before the renovation is complete.

Now that the roof is almost finished, I am glad we did not wait! It has been a very big and complicated process, one that would not have lent itself to accomplishing easily, once we were open as a museum.

(Continued on page 7)

SAM BRECK TALK ABOUT RAILROAD DEPOTS WILL BE IN CHELSEA DEPOT

Sam Breck, a local history buff, will present a slide talk on "The Railroad Depot, Its Past and Its Future" to WCHS at 2 p.m. Sunday, February 16, in the former Chelsea railroad depot.

WCHS will be guests of the Chelsea Area Historical Society which has a museum in part of the depot which is now a community building. It is just east of North Main Street (M-52) at the railroad tracks and near the landmark clock tower.

Breck, a consultant in sales promotion, author and a Michigan native, formerly published a magazine on railroad history, *The Inside Track*, for 12 years, 1970-82.

He will show the varied styles of depots, their evolution and adaptive reuses.

Rides can be arranged. Please call Pauline Walters, 662-9092.

NEEDED: AN INVESTOR

A house, in close proximity to the **MUSEUM on MAIN STREET,** is on the market for sale.

The Museum Planning Committee would welcome inquiries from anyone who might consider purchasing the building and making a tax-deductible donation of rent-free use of the building to the Museum (for storage and offices).

For more information, please call:

Nancy McKinney, 665-5171
or
Douglas Kelley, 662-1731

GREEK REVIVAL ARCHITECTURE:

CLASSICAL IDEALS IN MICHIGAN TRANSLATION

How come so many little Greek temples dot the American countryside yet today?

Greek Revival architecture swept the country from 1820-1860 and many examples can still be seen in southeast Michigan and elsewhere from Atlantic to Pacific.

Mary Culver, an Ann Arbor native who is working on a master's degree in historic preservation at Eastern Michigan University, spoke to the January WCHS audience on "The Greek Revival: The Translation of a Classical Ideal."

She delved into the background that led to its popularity, and showed the forms it took, especially in southeast Michigan. In some cases Michigan builders had their own twists.

"My dad introduced me to the features of the Greek Revival on long rides through the Washtenaw County countryside in the summer nights of my childhood," she said.

"At the time my sister and I would rather have been in camp but it's surprising how much you can learn by osmosis when the trigger mechanism is 'Now, *there's* a nice old house.'"

The second man who helped with her presentation, she said, was the late Emil Lorch. He came from the University of Chicago just before World War I to establish a school of art and architecture at the U-M.

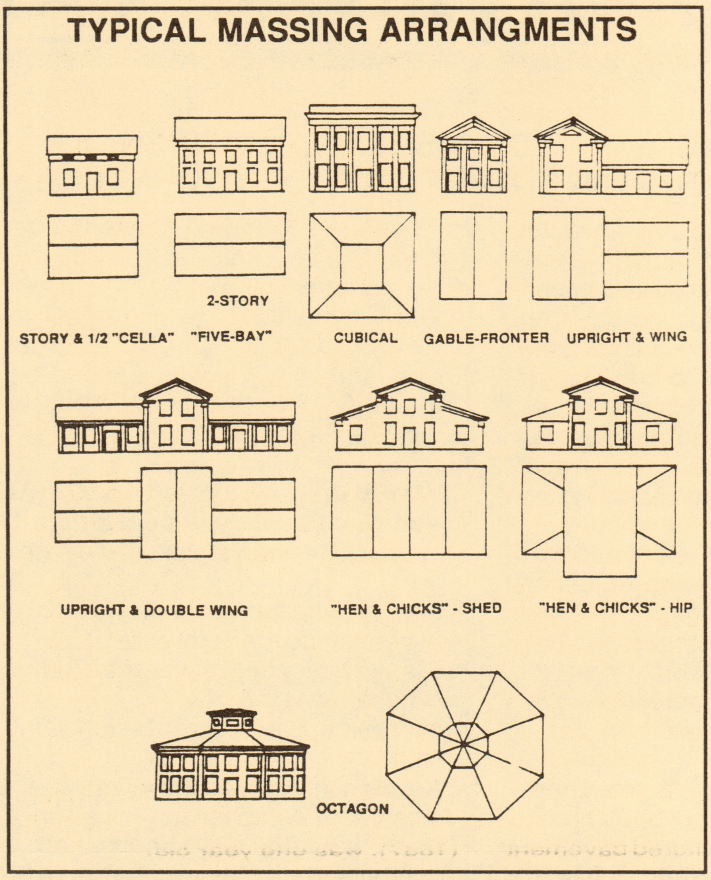
"I owe him for steering me to some of the best examples of Greek Revival structures in and near Washtenaw County through photos he took in the 1930s and '40s and left to Bentley Library.

"He was one of America's first architectural historians to recognize the need for preserving historic structures.

"He was responsible for restoration work on Gordon Hall, Judge Dexter's mansion in Dexter. He was also a member of the steering committee that established the Historic American Buildings Survey during the depression.

"As a consequence, measured drawings of many of our best Greek Revival structures today are preserved at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

"His contribution to WCHS when he was our president (1942-44) lives on in our continuing tradition of spring pilgrimages. He established them, and wonderful maps that he drew for Society members to follow are preserved at Bentley Library.



Drawings show what are called typical massing arrangements of Greek Revival houses in Eastern Michigan University's historic preservation program. Second drawing with each is its "footprint" or shape from birdseye view.

"Mary Mix Foley in her book, *The American House,* 1980, says the Greek Revival occurred at one of those moments in time which later generations can think of as golden--there was peace, prosperity, and freedom.

"After 200 years of Indian raids, of battles with the French, of two wars for independence from England and of the trials of forming their own government, Americans had emerged from the struggle to find that 'the day was sunny and the land their own.'

"Did you know that when Thomas Jefferson wrote his first draft of the Declaration of Independence the inalienable rights were 'life, liberty and *property*' not the pursuit of happiness?

"In the countries where our ancestors originated land ownership was reserved for the privileged class--just plain folks couldn't own land even if they had the money to buy it.

"So Foley's statement about the day being sunny and the land their own says something about the motives of our pioneers. In order to do justice to the Greek Revival I think it helps to understand the things that led to change.

"And the Greek Revival was a definite and distinct change in architectural taste that was part of a change in American culture as a whole.

"In 1762 the first volume of a new architectural work, *The Antiquities of Athens*, was published in London by James Stuart and Nicolas Revett. Many architectural historians say that it was this work that started the shift in architectural taste to the Greek Revival.

"These two Englishmen had participated in the archeological digs that documented and measured the Parthenon at Athens and their aristocratic countrymen, Lord Burlington and Lord Elgin, had brought back enough samples to start a fad among their English friends.

"The building usually cited as catalyst for the Greek Revival is the beautiful and famous temple, Maison Carree--only it's not Greek, it's Roman, and it's not in Rome, it's in Nimes, France.

"It was this temple, a Roman copy of earlier and some say better Greek examples that first intrigued Thomas Jefferson during his four-year sojourn at the French court.

"Jefferson was the first American to study the works of the Italians, specifically Palladdio and he introduced Roman architectural forms to the new world in his classical house, Monticello.

"There were some philosophical changes taking place too. In an article I recently found on classical symbolism by Alan Gowans, chairman of the department of art at University of Delaware, he cited two Irish deists named John Tolan and Anthony Collins.

"Around the end of the 1600s, they wrote that 'Christianity had become so corrupt and degenerate, so rattled with theological quarrels that no sound cul-

ture could be based on it.'

They proposed to salvage from it those qualities of organizational progression like baptism, confirmation, and communion, achieved by degrees of initiation, together with absolutes of morality which included truthfulness and loyalty, a sort of substitute church. It was called freemasonry.

"For many of our most influential forefathers, it amplified the deist principles that were so popular then to the point that masonic symbols began to creep into many design areas.

"Professor Gowans lists George Washington, Paul Revere, James Gibbs, the English architect, Lord Burlington, the famous English artist Hogarth, and Jacques Louis David, Napoleon's favorite portraitist--all as freemasons. Mozart, too, was a freemason.

"Freemasonry was founded on ancient beliefs that God had vouch-safed to King Solomon a knowledge of classical forms in their original perfection. Freemasonry became the embodiment of classical idealism.

"Professor Gowans lists the T square to remind us to regulate our conduct by principles of morality: the compass, to limit our desires in every station; the trowel, spreading the cement of brotherly love; and the checkered pavement representing the floor of King Solomon's temple. Its light and dark squares were emblematic of good and evil.

"Finally, he includes the symbolism of the architectural orders in which the Doric exemplified strength, the Ionic, wisdom, and Corinthian, beauty.

"The acceptance of these ideals in the 18th century was to have a profound impact on the American landscape in the 19th.

"At the same time, Mary Mix Foley claims that when the Greek Revival took hold in America around the year 1820 the entire culture which welcomed it had been classically oriented for over two centuries.

"Latin and Greek, sometimes taught at home by clergymen fathers, were the basics of instruction beyond the three R's.

"Roman and Greek mythology, while not perhaps so thoroughly familiar as the Bible, were widely known--a contemporary novel or poem was scarcely understandable without a working knowledge of Greek and classical myth.

"Now we know something about the mindset. Let's look at the historical setting in 1820, the beginning of the architectural style in America.

"The War of 1812 was over. Ratified in 1815, the Treaty of Ghent, provided that the English were to remain north of the Great Lakes, keep their hands off our sailors and stop paying a bounty to the Indians for all the colonials they could scalp.

Pictures courtesy of Mary Culver

This Whitmore Lake house at Main Street and East Shore Drive was built by Christian Zuck, a master carpenter, soon after he took up land in 1831. It is a "hen and chicks" version of Greek Revival, a type common in Michigan and seldom found elsewhere.

"In 1820, the baby who would later become Queen Victoria in the same year Michigan achieved statehood (1837), was one year old.

"Napoleon had been exiled in 1814. Liberty, equality, fraternity, once fighting words in France, had come true, at least to some extent.

"Then the Greeks, following American and French precedent, began their own war for independence against the Turks.

"In 1820, their first decisive victory was at a place called Scio by a brave Greek General named Demetrius Ypsilanti.

"In postwar America we were entering a period of Western expansion. Before 1823, the federal government, anxious to encourage settlement of the Northwest Territory, in order to secure it, had offered land at $2 an acre. Only $.50 of it had to be paid up front and the rest paid off in three annual installments.

"But most settlers needed longer than that to realize profits from their cash crops, so many of the earliest settlers lost their home through foreclosure. Those losses in turn resulted in cash flow problems for the government as well.

"In 1823 the law was changed and land offered at $1.25 an acre, cash on the barrelhead. Eighty acres cost $100. This made land ownership more possible than ever before.

"Transportation of anything was easiest over water compared to overland hauling. But until 1807 our rivers were navigable only with the current. And most of them flowed south, so transport in any other direction was seldom by water unless an ocean or a big lake was handy.

"If necessity was the mother of invention, Robert Fulton's steamboat and the Erie Canal were the children of three needs--one, to provide access to the cheap land to the immigrants.

"Two, to meet government's need for established settlements--towns, schools, churches, law and order in the hard won Northwest Territory so the Indians and English would stay put.

"Three, to exploit the resources of those as yet unknown lands for use in areas where they were scarce or absent.

"Together, the steam boat and canal system made both counter-current and east-west transport possible for the first time.

"To help us understand the economic impact alone, consider that before the Erie Canal was completed, the transportation of one ton of goods overland took 20 days to reach New York City from Buffalo and cost $20.

"After 1825 the Erie Canal made it possible for the same ton to reach New York City in six days at a cost of $5. Opportunity was here at last.

"In 1806, a young American from an influential and prosperous Philadelphia family traveled through Greece and added his praises of the classical ideal to Jefferson's. The two great truths in the world, he said, are the Bible and

Greek architecture.

"This writer-publisher was Nicholas Biddle and, in 1814, his magazine, the *Port Folio*, published an article by George Tucker, asserting that Greek architecture was the only type suitable for the new country.

"It wasn't just the wealthy and educated aristocracy that popularized it. It was part of a widespread romantic movement that was sweeping all of western civilization.

"American participation was no mere copying of the European fad. It was an integral part of the movement. Talbot Hamlin who wrote *Greek Revival Architecture in America* and other authors make a big point of the fact Greek forms were used in America differently than in Europe.

"Is it any wonder, that our own Miss Liberty, though we didn't actually position her in New York harbor until 1884, is dressed in the classical robes of a Greek goddess?

"It's true there were no real professional architects in America. Like many other professions in 1820, architecture was based on the apprentice system.

"However, architects represent only one means to get well-designed buildings. The other was through the English tradition of publishing architectural design books. Long before the Greek Revival, English designers like Inigo Jones and others were publishing something called pattern books.

"On places along our east coast, you will see line-for-line copies taken right from the plates in these books--fireplace walls and doorway surrounds in plantation houses built before our Revolution.

"Minard Lafever, a carpenter from the Finger Lakes region of New York state where so many Michigan pioneers originated, wrote the first design books all devoted totally to the Greek Revival style.

"These books and those of other authors popularized the Greek Revival in a way that assured its spread from eastern cities westward with the migration of the 1830's.

"The books might not be what you'd expect, however. For the most part the text includes descriptions of how to draw the architectural components of a structure, like the entry or stairs or roof bracing.

"These leave a lot of the actual specifications up to the owner, the size of his purse, and the skills of the builder. That left the door open to a great deal of vernacular creativity. The result is found in the enormous variety and forms

This house on Saline-Ann Arbor Road at Wagner was built of--would you believe?--adobe or unfired clay bricks and stuccoed.

that the Greek Revival took.

"It's hard to appreciate the inventiveness of our builders without some understanding of the Greek forms that were their inspiration."

She showed pictures of examples of the three orders of Greek architecture--the Doric, Ionic and Corinthian.

The shallow pitch of the roof, the triangular pediment and the symmetry of the facade are trademarks of Greek Revival, she noted.

Examples of the Doric included the Temple of Zeus at Olympia, Nicholas Biddle's house, Andalusia, 1835-36, near Philadelphia and Ann Arbor's Kempf House.

"Kempf House shows what can happen to a Greek idea when a builder-designer with limited resources and unlimited imagination goes to work." She noted the square, not round, columns and cast iron grilles over the frieze windows.

An Ionic example was a temple at Xanthos, Greece, and an 1843 Michigan house.

Ms. Culver's book on Greek art says the rounded volutes at the top of the Ionic columns represent the curls in a woman's hairdo, not the ram's horns she was taught about in fourth grade at Angell School.

She showed a Greek version of Corinthian and an American one at Pinewood, South Carolina, which seems to have come right out of Minard Lafever's design book.

She called attention to decorative detail, a fan shaped figure, called an anthemion. The original is from a stone carving on a Greek gravestone.

"The whole romantic movement had almost excessive concerns about death. Early and, especially, lingering death were considered romantic and poetic. These kinds of deaths were certainly not uncommon because of lack of effective medical intervention.

"I suspect the anthemion was there to represent eternal life." She showed a fourth century B.C. example, a low relief anthemion on a Greek cornice, alternated with a lotus flower. American examples showed anthemions in some scrolls over interior double doors of a Rochester, New York parlor, in a house attributed to Minard Lafever, and a floor cloth with elongated anthemions in the border.

The Greek key fret or meander pattern goes back at least to the eighth century B.C. she said. She showed the pattern on a ceramic container, on a Corinthian column and on the lower edge of an 1831 New York City fence topped with a matching row of anthemions.

She couldn't find a label for another form she calls the double blossom. She showed it on a 525 B.C. Greek vase, the base of a Greek temple column and in wooden grilles on another square-columned Ann Arbor house built in 1846 on Packard Road near St. Clare Episcopal Church/Temple Beth Emeth.

"The Greek climate is so mild Greek temples didn't need windows, at least not like ours, and their wooden doors have long since crumbled away or been replaced. So what did American designers do for 19th century window and door design? They went back to the simplicity of the temple shape itself.

Some doorways had a triangular pediment mimicking the roof of Greek temples. Characteristically the sides of door casings flare slightly near the floor.

"The little windows in the frieze of so many Greek Revival houses are really more Italian than Greek or even Roman. I can't find any architectural precedents until Palladio's four books of architecture first published in Italy in 1570.

"Thomas Jefferson was America's first promoter of Palladianism and he used frieze windows on the wings at Monticello. Nowadays architects call them clerestory windows."

She showed three Greek Revival style fireplace surrounds but noted that most Greek Revival houses in Washtenaw County had no fireplaces--they were heated with small wood stoves--the latest thing in home heating and more efficient.

However, there is a new Greek Revival copy house in South Lyon by Architect David Evans, she said. The owner salvaged a fireplace surround for it from a house that was demolished, that is very much like one of the examples she showed.

"Using the classical orders and their trademarks, let's look at some of the ways American designers and builders created variations on a theme."

She showed a slide with all the shapes of those variations, "what we call massing arrangements at Eastern."

The first shape was a 1 1/2 story three bay rectangle. Each opening, window or door, is a bay. Where you find shallow roof pitch, symmetrical front, and deep cornice returns, you can be sure the house is Greek Revival. (If the cornice returns continued across the gable end they would form a triangle temple pediment.)

Examples shown included a split-boulder house, 4555 Pontiac Trail, and a house at the intersection of Wagner and Saline-Ann Arbor Road. The latter is of a surprising building material for our area--adobe.

The adobe house is one of at least five surviving houses built by Stephen Mills, a mason from Felch, New York, who came to Washtenaw County and settled in Pittsfield township in 1833.

"He made unfired brick of clay he found on his land, the same clay which is still such a nuisance to farmers and gardeners in our area.

"Because unfired bricks melt when they are exposed to the elements, he sealed them with plaster on the inside and stucco on the outside. Then he scored the stucco with a tool to make it look more like stone blocks in Greek temples.

"Stucco in Michigan! It sounds crazy with a climate like ours with its freeze and thaw cycles. But his houses are still here after 150 years so there must have been something exactly right about that stucco mixture. There are others in the county built of stucco and brick.

The Wagner-Saline Road house had a little front porch of temple shape.

A second massing arrangement is a two-story with five bays. Cobblestone Farm house is an example, built of cobblestones, another nuisance to farmers which had also been used in up state New York.

"We have no documentation of it but we think Cobblestone Farm house was also built by the adobe man, Stephen Mills.

"Some people call this an example of colonial or federal survival because it looks like the center hall colonials we see in New England.

First of all this house was built about 1844, fifty years after Americans stopped being colonials, much less wanting to be called colonials. A closer look will show its features are unmistakably Greek.

"There are no curving arched fan lights on this entry. The gable shows the shallow roof pitch with even a little triangle inside the deep cornice returns so characteristic of Greek Revival style.

"Salem township has an equally beautiful example of Cobblestone construction set way back on the east side of Curtis Road (5400). It has a plaque in the peak which says it was built in 1851. An 1854 plat map shows it owned by a McCormick.

The third example was a brick house, 9015 Beeman Road, Lyndon township, on the Beeman centennial farm. Except for stone quoins on the corners of cobblestone examples, it looks a lot like them. Its porch also looks like a miniature temple.

"All the three above two-story houses have five bays, four windows and a door on the first floor and five windows on the second."

For fun she followed with a Greek revival five-holer. "Maybe this is what Hamlin meant when he said Americans 'carry the Greek forms to a point which is unique.'

Next she showed gable fronters in which the front door is in the short wall under the roof gable.

Examples included a log cabin at 15900 Osius Road, Lyndon township, (probably built in the last 75 years) and Salem township's "lovely, Salem-Walker Church, 7150 Angle Road, a county treasure, recently listed on the State Register of Historic Places."

She noted the wide corner trim boards that look like flattened columns sometimes called pilaster strips or corner boards. They cover the butt ends and are very typical of Greek Revival.

A red frame gable fronter at 1713 Pontiac Trail, just inside the city limits, is thought to have been moved there from Broadway. It has very narrow corner boards and the door to one side of the gable front, to leave more wall space inside.

Kempf House is a gable fronter with four square columns. Its frieze windows have cast iron grilles with anthemions. Inside, the frieze windows are the same level as baseboards on the upper floor.

The Anderson House, 2301 Packard, another frame gable fronter, is thought to have been built by the same man as Kempf House. The wooden grilles on the frieze windows are the double blossom design.

So far, these gable fronters are 1 1/2 stories but some, especially the later ones, had two stories like the brick one at 415 North Main, Ann Arbor, that Peter Fink has just restored. It has a one-story porch as does a frame one at 112 Koch Street moved there from South Main.

"Now we come to the top of the line of gable fronters, the Wilson-Wahr House at 126 North Division, Ann Arbor with columns a full two-stories high and the first example we've seen of the Ionic order. It is stucco over brick, scored to look like stone.

The front door is flanked with two glass panels to represent columns.

Calling it "maybe the gable fronter to end all gable fronters" she showed the Leland House at 3850 North Territorial Road in Northfield township, extra wide with five bays on the first floor.

At Concord, in Jackson County, she found a Greek Revival pump house and a couple of one-story cube shaped--214 Homer Road and 317 Hanover Street. Each is frame with a cupola.

The two-story Lund house, 1324 Pontiac Trail, Ann Arbor, stucco over brick with cupola, is a local example of the cube shape.

"Making temples work as homes presented some real challenges, especially when families grew to include eight or ten children. The best solution was to add on to the temple's basic form, usually in the form of a one-story wing.

"Sometimes additions were in the rear where they didn't show but when attached to one side they became an upright-and-wing like the Ladies Literary Club house at 218 North Washington in Ypsilanti."

She called a frame upright-and-wing at 20624 Waterloo Road a typical Michigan farm house. It has deep cornice returns, a triangle in the gable, contrasting pilasters and a new feature, a recessed porch.

A frame house at 1006 South Main, Ann Arbor, has a tower. "Greek Revival houses can't have towers--or can they? Before its new siding its cor-

YPSI'S OLDEST HOUSE MAY BE DEMOLISHED

The owner of the Towner House, built in 1837 and believed to be the oldest house in Ypsilanti, have applied for permission to demolish it, Mary Culver said.

She asked that anyone who agreed it should be preserved sign a petition. The house at 303 North Huron, recently a children's museum, is owned by the Presbyterian Church.

nices, and narrow corner boards looked remarkably Greek. Frieze windows along the top of the porch roof were covered.

"This was a Greek Revival farm house that after the Civil War got absorbed inside the town limits. I can just hear the lady of the house saying, 'Dad, we've got to do something about this old house to bring it up to date. I know. Let's add a tower.'"

Most all Greek Revival houses with columns had an even number of columns, usually four or six. She showed one with only three and noted there are a couple of five column versions in Marshall. "I think it has to do with the arrangement of the windows."

"The next logical step in the concession to size is the upright-and-double wing. For this massing arrangement there are three variations.

One is two-story up-right with one-story wings attached at right angles. There are brick examples on Beeman Road not far from the Beeman house, cited previously, and at 4444 Lohr Road, Pittsfield township, the Lohr homestead, currently being restored.

Other examples are at 64707 Mound Road near Detroit and 8340 Michigan Avenue, Parma, of Michigan sandstone, which is described in Hamlin's book. The builder's name and date are above the front door--Caleb M. Chapel, June 1860.

Members of the Chapel family still own and occupy it. The Greek Revival privy, she showed earlier, stands behind the Chapel home.

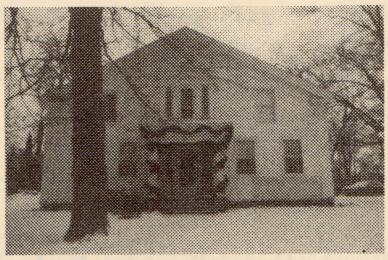
The other version of the upright-and-double-wing is called the basilica type in the books and hen and chicks by Michiganders.

A basilica is defined as a Roman hall of justice with a wide tall central space flanked by lower narrow aisles. Old-timers would just say it has a hen in the center and a chick on each side.

On the frame Tubbs-Hall house at 3735 Tubbs Road, if you lifted the main block out and pushed the two wings together to meet you'd have a perfect triangular pediment of a Greek temple.

A frame hen and chicks at 7465 Joy Road "probably had a couple more columns supporting it once. One of the most impressive of all hen-and-chicks and a landmark in Whitmore Lake is the Zuck House. It has been an inn, a hotel, a family residence. It has now been divided into five apartments."

The other version of the hen-and-chicks has hip roof wings, rather than shed roof. Examples are at 6710 Five Mile Road and 8985 North Territorial



The Leland house, 3850 North Territorial Road, Northfield township, is an unusually wide five-bay gable front example.

Road, both in Salem township, and 6595 Plymouth Road, Superior township, with a recessed porch.

Just over the county line near South Lyon is the Alonzo Olds house at 10084 Rushton Road. The width of the entire facade including wings is only 32 feet, 2 inches. Drawings of it are in the Library of Congress.

"Another fine Livingston County example of hen and chicks is the Governor Bingham House, 13270 Silver Lake Road. Its detailing includes a ton of Greek architectural features seldom seen on Michigan houses like fluting and metope.

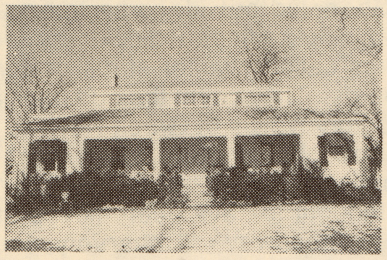
A frame hen-and-chicks at 50 Central Street, Dexter, has a doorway "copied right out of Minard Lafever's design books." The space between the two inner columns was widened.

A brick hen-and-chicks on Waters Road between Ann Arbor-Saline and Wagner Roads is now burned and derelict. Ms. Culver remembers when it was "as prosperous a dairy farm as there was in Pittsfield township and a beautiful old place."

"Now for some real oddballs, architecturally. May Mast's Cottonwood Farm house in Webster township (4580 Farrell Road) is really a rare and wonderful type of hen-and-chicks. Its main block is a two-story five bay and not a gable fronter at all like all the other hen-and-chicks we saw.

"I found another house that resembled this in an out-of-print book but it had been demolished. Cottonwood Farm may be the only example like this in the world.

"No discussion of Greek Revival is



Cottonwood Farm house, 4580 Farrell Road, Webster township, may be the only of its kind in the world.

complete without some mention of octagonal houses. The first one was built by Thomas Jefferson and pre-dated Greek Revival by about fifteen years.

"It is outside Lynchburg, Virginia, and has recently come back into the public domain and is being restored.

"An octagonal house built by U-M Professor Winchell was torn down to make way for Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor."

A clapboard octagonal house at 66425 Eight Mile Road near Rushton still has its cupola. Local boulders were encased in mortar and stuccoed at 6770 Brown Road north of Parma in Jackson County.

An octagonal house at 57500 Van Dyke, Washington, Michigan, near Romeo has the only Corinthian columns she could find. It is being restored and is sometimes open to the public.

"You almost have to look for public buildings to find the Corinthian order.

"Jefferson was a freemason and the story was that he thought the symbol for wisdom was more appropriate for a statehouse than the symbol of beauty.

"And now this wild and crazy frame one at 4360 Mast Road, Webster township. This can only be called an octagonal hen-and-chicks"

She would like to know where the term "hen-and-chicks" came from. She can't find it in books. It appeared twice in Emil Lorch's papers at Bentley, once a 1938 paper written by two of his students, suggesting he may have used it in one of his lectures.

Secondly, the words "hen-and-chicks" appear in Lorch's own handwriting in the margin of a *Washtenaw Impressions* for 1944 describing a talk Lorch had given on old houses.

"Hamlin makes a strong case for the hen-and-chicks massing arrangement as being almost unique to Michigan with only a few examples scattered through other states of the Northwest Territories.

"My theory is that there may have been lots more but they didn't survive because they were built of soft pine instead of the harder whitewood or masonry that we had here.

"What was it about the archaic architectural style that made it so popular? It certainly wasn't its suitability to day to day living."

Ms. Culver argues that it was dignified, it was symbolic of a democratic political struggle and it was patriotic.

"Americans were seeking a political identity to replace the image the English had promoted that they were a

rabble. Foley says Greek architecture symbolized the earliest democracy in the history of mankind. Greek Revival became associated with the ideals of democracy and freedom."

HISTORIAN PUBLISHING BOOK ON FRANK GLAZIER

Louis Doll, a historian and native of Chelsea, will publish a book this month about Chelsea's once best known citizen. Its title is *Less Than Immortal: The Rise and Fall of Frank Porter Glazier.*

Glazier, who ran the world's largest stove company in Chelsea, Doll says, became a senator and state treasurer. The latter post led to his downfall. He also built the Ann Arbor Trust Building now occupied by Society Bank in Ann Arbor.

Doll, now retired, taught Michigan history for many years at Delta College near Bay City. Previously he was on the U-M library staff 13 years. He is the author of *The History of St. Thomas Parish and A History of Newspapers of Ann Arbor, 1829-1920.*

AND THE WINNER WAS . . .

Douglas Kelley, a WCHS member who collects political memorabilia, has mounted an exhibit about how Washtenaw voted in the last 25 presidential elections, 1892-1988, in the lobby of the Washtenaw County Administration Building (old Post Office) at Main and Catherine Streets, Ann Arbor.

KAREN'S KOLUMN . . .

Continued from page 1.

It turned out that the roof structure in the back and oldest part of the house was very weak, hence the sag. A method was devised to construct bracing inside the house to support the roof and especially preserve the wonderful accordian lath that exists, mostly exposed, in the upper half-story.

Then our carpenters, Joe Benkert and John Stahle, went to work inserting a new ridge and beefing up the existing rafters. With everything open and exposed, we took the opportunity to put in insulation. This can only help our future heating costs.

The carpenters have done a superb job for us. It was not easy work, especially on the recent very cold days with attendant snow and rain. The roof sections were kept well covered when they were not being worked on, and we had no mishaps. The fragile lath is very much intact.

I am eager to see the new shingles applied. Our museum will be gradually looking better and better with a new secure roof, and the Dean Fund trees.

Karen O'Neal
665-2242

LOOKING AHEAD . . .

Continued from page 1.

- building storage units in the basement;
- construction of display cases;
- and tasks yet to bedetermined.

And of course, contributions to the Building Fund are always gratefully accepted. We have spent and/or encumbered $200,000 of the cost of renovating this 1830's structure. The remaining projects will cost about $100,000 to complete plus, to ensure we will be able to open and maintain the museum through its first two years, another $50,000 should be available for each of the first two years.

We can also look forward to an interesting fund raising event on Friday evening, April 24th when you will be invited to a gala reception at Bob Lyon's General Store Emporium on Morgan Road where he also has a very special collection of antique toys and other artifacts. You will receive an invitation and we hope you plan to attend.

I, personally, am looking forward to the day when we can set up the office in our Museum. It will be regularly staffed a few hours daily on weekdays and it will be good to have a place where we can gather to work on projects.

Please drop a note or call the office, 662-9092, and let us know how YOU would like to be involved.

Pauline V.Walters
662-9092

MORE PIONEER NAMES FROM BURNS PARK LOG CABIN

The roll of pioneers whose names were inscribed on logs in the former Burns Park Log Cabin, started in the January issue, continues. The cabin was built in 1898 on what was then the Washtenaw County Fairgrounds. The cabin was razed in 1956 but parts of logs with names were stored.

Glover, Charles W. & mary A., Ypsilanti, 1834
Godfrey, David, Sylvan, 1832
Godfrey, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas H., Sylvan, 1832; Ann Arbor, 1833
Gooding, Othniel, York, 1834
Goodrich, Chauncey S., Ann Arbor, 1827
Goodrich, Merchant Huxford, Ann Arbor, 1827

Hangsterfer, Jacob & Catherine, Ann Arbor, 1850
Helber, Dr. Christian, Ann Arbor, 1854
Hinckley, Sherman & Orpha Gates, Pittsfield, 1831
Hiscock, Daniel L., Ann Arbor, 1829
Howe, Mr. & Mrs. H. & H., Lodi, 1825, 1836
Hurd, Gilbert, Pittsfield, 1831
Hutzel, August & Sophie, Ann Arbor, 1838

James, Luther, Lima, 1836
Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. John, Lodi, 1836
Judson, William, Sylvan, 1836

Kenny, Munnis, Webster, 1829
Kempf, John Jacob, (no date)
Kimbel, Mr. & Mrs. Isaac S., Ypsilanti, 1826
Kingsley, James, Ann Arbor, 1826
Kirk, Mrs. Barney, Ypsilanti, 1844
Koch, John G., Freedom, 1831
Krapf, Conrad, Ann Arbor, 1836

Laubengayer, George B., Scio, 1833
Lawrence, Edwin, Ann Arbor, 1836
Lay, Mr. & Mrs. E.D., Ypsilanti, 1833
Leland, Joshua G., Northfield, 1831
Luick, David, Lima, 1836

Mack, Christian, Ann Arbor, 1851
Mann, Emanuel, Ann Arbor, 1830
Markhan, Augustine & Gertrude, Ann Arbor, 1827
Martin, Oliver M., Ann Arbor, 1833
Mason, Hiram & John Q., Webster, 1834
Maynard, Mr. & Mrs. John W., Ann Arbor, 1824
Maynard, William S., Ann Arbor, 1824
McCardy, Martha Barr, Pittsfield, 1835
McCreery, William, Ann Arbor, 1832
Millen, Chauncy H., Ann Arbor, 1835
Mills, Russell, Saline, 1832
Mills, Stephen & Clemma, Pittsfield, 1836 & 1838
Moore, Caleb, York, 1836
Moore, Samuel & Mary, Ypsilanti, 1848
Morgan, Elijah & Lucy W.S., Ann Arbor, 1829
Morton, James T., Pittsfield, 1830
Muehlig, Florian, Ann Arbor, 1838

Nanry, John W., Webster, 1838
Newkirk, Sylvester & Julia S., Scio, 1837
Noble, Sylvester D., Ann Arbor, 1835
Nordman, Edward A. & Iren (sic) C., Lima, 1836
Nowland, Andrew A., Ann Arbor, 1824

(To be continued in March Impressions.)

TO MEET AT HOSPITAL

"Early Development of St. Joseph Hospital" will be the topic of the WCHS meeting Sunday, March 15, at the hospital. Joyce Williams of the staff will speak.

TOPIC: PHOTOGRAPHY

Nancy Goff, a photographer and language arts teacher at Ypsilanti High School, will talk about "History of Photography" at the Genealogy Society of Washtenaw meeting at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, February 23, at Washtenaw Community College. It will be in lecture Hall II, Liberal Arts and Science Building. Class following on "Tracing Your Female Lines" by Carolyn Griffin.

READERS TURN IN 36% OF POINTS FOR VCR

Readers have now turned in 5,989 points or thirty-six percent of the 16,509 points needed to earn a video cassette recorder for WCHS by collecting points when they eat at Knapp's Restaurants.

Anyone who eats at any Knapp's Restaurant can get a yellow point slip from the cashier each time with one point for each dollar spent.

Please keep collecting points and give or sent to Alice Ziegler, 537 Riverview Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. Information: 663-8826.

THREE BOARD MEMBERS TO TALK ON RADIO

Three WCHS board members--Louisa Pieper, Mary Culver, and Susan Wineberg will talk about Ann Arbor history on the Ted Heusel show on Radio Station WAAM, 1600 AM, about 10:15 a.m. Friday, February 14.

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS INVOLVE DEPOTS, CRAFTS, BOTTLES, LINCOLN, ANNIVERSARIES, VALENTINES

Chelsea Historical Society: 7:30 p.m. second Monday at Depot, North Main at railroad tracks. The Society will host Washtenaw County Historical Society February 16.

A group from Chelsea Retirement Community will tour the depot museum February 20. Marge Hepburn and David Pastor guided eight classes of third graders around the museum in December.

Dexter Society: 8 p.m. first Thursday at museum, 3443 Inverness. The Society's 19th annual craft fair will be 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at Dexter High School on Baker Road, featuring 55-60 craft persons demonstrating and selling their work.

Manchester Society: 7:30 p.m. third Tuesday at Blacksmith Shop, 324 East Main. Terry Towler, Ypsilanti bottle collector, will talk about his hobby February 18. Manchester Village will celebrate its 125th anniversary this year.

Milan Society: The Society will celebrate the 20th anniversary of its founding at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 19, at Hack House, 775 County Street. Founders Warren Hale and Jim and Nancy Burger will talk about how the Society got started.

A fire truck led to the founding. Back in 1938 Henry Ford wanted Milan's old fire truck for his museum and offered to swap them a new Ford fire truck for it.

When Milan wanted to replace the 1938 truck there was sentiment to preserve it and the Society formed to receive it. The Ford Motor Company plant recently presented a $1,900 check to the Society toward restoration of the 1938 truck.

Pittsfield Society: 2 p.m. first Sunday, Pittsfield Township Hall, State and Ellsworth Roads.

Salem Society: Will join Plymouth Historical Society at Plymouth Museum 7:30 p.m. Thursday, February 13, to hear Dr. Wedon Petz talk on "Images of Lincoln." The museum currently has an exhibit, "1,000 Images of Lincoln."

The Rider House in Salem village which the Society wishes to save from demolition has been given a reprieve by the township board.

The Society was asked to make a presentation about the house to the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission at 7:30 p.m. Monday, February 10 at the Washtenaw County Building.

Saline Society: 7 p.m. third Wednesday at Senior Center, 7605 North Maple Road.

Webster Society: 7:45 p.m. Monday, February 10, at home of David and Linda Chapman. William Tasch, Dexter High School teacher, will talk about the about the history of Tiger baseball and his baseball card collection. His newest cards are 1958.

Ypsilanti Society: Valentine tea 2-4 p.m. Sunday, February 16, at museum, 220 North Huron, with annual exhibit of old valentines and program. Free. Many of the valentines were those saved by 100-year-old Ellen Gould, a retired teacher, residing at Gilbert House.

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WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

"RAILROAD DEPOTS"

2 P.M. Sunday
February 16, 1992

Chelsea Railroad Depot
North Main (M-52) at tracks
Chelsea, Michigan

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2200 Fuller Road, 1202 B
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105-2307

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